

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly amend independent claim 1 as shown in the following claim listing:

1. (currently amended) A switchable element comprising:

a chamber (111), comprising a first body of fluid (101) and a second body of fluid (102), said first body of fluid being at least one of a of a polar liquid and a conducting liquid and said second body of fluid being a non-conducting liquid;

a first electrode (103) and a second electrode (104), which are arranged to control spatial distribution of said first and second liquids upon the application of a voltage between said first and second electrodes; and

wherein at least one of said first and second bodies of fluid comprises a surfactant (105)for affecting surface tension to lower the magnitude of said voltage required to control the switchable element.

2. (original) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (105) affects the interfacial tension (106) between said first and said second bodies of fluid (101, 102).

3. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (205) affects the interfacial tension

(107) between said first body of fluid (106) and at least one wall (109) of said closed cell (111).

4. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (305) affects the surface tension (108) between said second body of fluid (102) and at least one of the walls (109) of said closed cell (111).

5. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (105; 205; 305) is an alcohol.

6. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (105; 205; 305) is a molecule having a hydrocarbon or fluorcarbon part.

7. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (105) is at least one surfactant chosen from a group of surfactants comprising 2,2,3,4,4,4-hexafluoro-1-butanol and 2,2,3,3,4,4,4-heptafluoro-1-butanol.

8. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said surfactant (105) is at least one surfactant chosen from a group of surfactants comprising

pentafluorophenyltrimethylsilane, trifluoromethyltrimethylsilane and trifluoromethyltriethylsilane.

9. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said element is a switchable optical element.

10. (previously presented) A switchable element according to claim 1, wherein said element is a motor.

11. (previously presented) A device comprising a switchable element (100) according to claim 1.